ABSTRACT

Described in this disclosure is a system for gene therapy using a chimeric vector made from an adenovirus genome and a heterologous gene that functionally replaces an adenovirus gene required for replication or assembly. Cytolytic viruses can be produced that target particular tissue types by virtue of having replication controlled by a specific transcription control element — such as the promoter for telomerase reverse transcriptase. These therapeutic viruses are believed to have an improved safety and efficacy profile compared with previously available systems.